

THE
GIBEONITES
OF THIS DAY
DISCOVER'D

And their old Garments and
mouldy Bread, rejected by *Joshua*
and his Children: Who have en-
quired of the Lord where true
Cloathing and Provision is.

In a LETTER and POEM to a Gentle-
woman, from *Joshua* ix. 3, 4, 5.

Mat. xxiv. 15. Whofo readeth, let him understand.

*Isa. xl. 4. And the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough Places plain.*

*Prov. viii. 9. They are all plain to him that under-
standeth, &c.*

L O N D O N:

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[1746?]

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TO THE
READER.

THE Reason of my printing this Letter and Poem is, because People quite weary me for Copies of it: And as it has already been made a Blessing to many, I now make it publick to the World; trusting He, who in his Providence brings about his own Purposes by what Means he sees right, will yet give a farther Blessing to it, and make it useful to the Good of Souls, and then I have my End answered; for I dare not bury my Talent in the Earth. I would observe to thee, Reader, that by Joshua and his Children, in the Title-Page, I mean JESUS, and the Children of Faith; as Gal. iii. 26, 28. Zech. iii. 8. Joshua with us signifies Jesus. So it is rendered Acts vii. 45. Heb. iv. 8. So in the first and second Line of the first Verse, by returning to Joshua thro' Fear, I mean, those Souls who are afraid of going to Hell, if they trust alone to their own Works, and so are returning to Christ to make up their Deficiency. Just like those Jews, Rom. x. 3, who sought a Righteousness (not

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absolutely,

absolutely, but) as it were, by the Works of the Law. And upon the account of what they had done, thought to make a League with God, and dwell with him in Peace. See Mat. vii. 22. But God will find out their Deceit, see Ver. 23. None must enter Heaven in this their own invented Way: For Christ is alone the Door, Joh. x. 7, 9. Acts iv. 12. We are saved by Grace alone, and not of Works, least any one should boast, Ephes. ii. 8, 9. May the God of Joshua bless what is here wrote to thy Soul, is the Prayer of,

Thy Servant in the Gospel,

20 MA 59

William Allt.

A L E T.

A
LETTER, &c.
TO A
GENTLEWOMAN:

From JOSHUA ix. 3, 4, 5.

And when the Inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done unto Jericho and to Ai, they did work wilily, and went and made as tho' they had been Ambassadors, and took old Sacks upon their Asses, and Wine-bottles, old and rent, and bound up, and old Shoes, and clouted upon their Feet, and old Garments upon them, and all the Bread of their Provision was dry and mouldy.

MADAM,

AS I was informed you was desirous of hearing me preach from *Joshua ix. 3, 4, 5* tho' the Words seem'd in themselves very injudicious Language, yet as the Apostle says, *1-Cor. i. 25.* the Foolishness of God is wiser than

Man, &c. I doubted not but God would give me Wisdom to find out the Metaphor. For tho' we often find allegorical Expressions in the Scriptures, as *Gal. iv. 22, 23, 24.* we are to remember, that all Scripture is given by Inspiration ; and that whatsoever was written aforetime, was written for our Learning, *Rom. xv. 4.* So we are not to condemn the Word of God, because our weak Faculties cannot comprehend it ; for unless we were omniscient, and knew all Things, we cannot be competent Judges what Things are most proper to be revealed, and what kept secret. I, for my Part, take great Pleasure in meditating upon those obscure Sayings ; and I find by parallel Scriptures, they all agree to point out the Misery of Man by the Fall, and his Restoration by Christ Jesus. And as our Lord tells us the Scriptures testify of Him, I think that Hour unprofitably spent in reading them, when I do not see therein, something of his Love to my Soul. And tho' few would have thought of Christ in a Manger, yet those directed of God came and found Him there. So I believe those directed of God now, can find a Testimony of Him in these dark Sayings. While I have been out on a Journey, I have thought of the Words you sent me, and have composed a few Verses from them, which I have here sent you. I would have you examine the Scriptures as I have placed them, and then I doubt not (if you read with an unprejudic'd Mind) but you will receive Benefit from them. — If you desire a farther Explanation of them, I will gratify your Desire in preaching from them. I am, Madam,

Your most humble Servant,

WILLIAM ALLT.

Comer

1 COME, ye Souls, who are returning
 Unto *Josbua*, thro' Fear,
 Who are weeping, fasting, mourning,
 Have your Garments old thro' wear,
 Who would show, that ye know
 What the Lord would have you do. (a)

2 You who say the Lord you fear much,
 And in Awe of Him you stand;
 Who Himself has bid you wear such,
 And you honour his Command;
 Fast and pray, Day by Day,
 Heaven think to win this Way. (b)

3 You who know Peace is proclaimed,
 And the News to others tell,
 Who Ambassadors are named,
 Tell Souls Christ will save from Hell,
 If that they will obey,
 By their Works their own Debts pay. (c)

4 You who labour hard for Wages, (d)
 Put it in a Bag with Holes, (e)
 While your Works your Time engages,
 You can never profit Souls; (f)
 Burdens you bear, it's true,
 But no Wages will ensue. (g)

5 Sacks you have, but no rich Treasure, (h)
 All your Works can nothing gain; (i)
 You your Asses load with Pleasure, (j)
 Put their Souls to Grief and Pain; (k)

Prefa

(a) *Rom.* ii. 13, 19, 20. (b) *Rom.* x. 3. (c) *Gal.* iv. 17. Chap. ii. 4. (d) *Rom.* iv. 4. (e) *Hag.* i. 6. (f) *Gal.* iii. 2, 3. (g) *Hag.* i. 9. (h) *Mal.* ii. 13. (i) *Tit.* iii. 4, 5. (j) *Mat.* xxiii. 4. (k) *Gal.* iv. 9, 17, 25.

Prefs and cry, work or die,
But their Wants you ne'er supply. (l)

6 Bottles rent, bound up you bring them;

But, alas, they hold no Wine; (m)

Only Wind we find is in them, (n)

This can't make the Soul divine; (o)

Bottles too will not do,

Wine and Bottles must be new. (p)

7 Bottles old shew Man by Nature,

Rent and marred by the Fall: (q)

Who's in Christ, he's a new Creature, (r)

Quite bound up, and heal'd of all. (s)

Gospel-Grace, Wine it is; (t)

Souls of Men are heal'd by this. (u)

8 Shoes, it's true, you give unto them;

But they're old, and clouted so,

Who's wears them, they'll undo them,

Bring their Souls to Death and Woe. (w)

Joshua knew, Moses too, (x)

These old Shoes would never do. (y)

9 None by Works can walk to Heaven, (z)

None can stand in these 'fore God; (a)

Only

(l) *Gal.* iii. 10. (m) *Mark* ii. 22. (*the Bottles in those Days were made of Leather.*) (n) *Ilsa.* xxvi. 18. (o) *Heb.* vii. 19. *2 Cor.* iii. 14—18. (p) *Luke* v. 38. (q) *Hof.* vi. 1. (r) *2 Cor.* v. 17. (s) *Ilsa.* lxi. 1. liii. 5. *1 Pet.* ii. 24. (t) *Ilsa.* lv. 1, 2, 3. *Job.* vii. 37, 38, 39. (u) *Job.* vi. 47. *Rom.* v. 1. *Acts* xiii. 39. (w) *Prov.* xiv. 12. (x) *Josh.* v. 15. *Exod.* iii. 5. (y) *Deut.* xviii. 15, 18, 19. *Zeck.* iii. 3, 4. (z) *Rom.* iii. 20, 28. (a) *Psal.* xxiv. 3, 4.

Only those whose Sin's forgiven, (b)

Who are with the Gospel shod, (c)

Only these shod with Peace, (d)

With the Lamb shall have a Place. (e)

10 Garments old whoever weareth,

Righteousness wrought by the Law,

Will not do, if once he teareth, (f)

If in it is found one Flaw : (g)

No Man, e'er fit to wear,

With new Cloth can mend the Tear. (h)

11 Our old Garments are Obedience,

Which by us performed be ; (i)

Adam spoil'd this Robe, and e'er since (k)

None by Works could Heaven see : (l)

But the Lord, in his Word,

Tells us Christ has us restor'd. (m)

12 All the Works that Men are doing,

Born to make a League with God ;

All that they are hard pursuing,

For to turn away his Rod,

Is like Bread, dry and dead,

Mouldy, as the Lord hath said. (n)

13 All the Manna th' Jews did gather,

More than did their Wants supply,

'Cause they did mistrust their Father,

Moulded, stank, was dead, and dry : (o)

Well

(b) *Act* x. 43. (c) *Rom.* x. 15. *Isa.* lii. 7. (d) *Ephes.* vi. 15. (e) *Rev.* vii. 14, 15. (f) *Gal.* iii. 10, 11. *James* iii. 10. (g) *Gal.* iii. 10. (h) *Mark* ii. 21. (i) *Hag.* i. 6. *Isa.* lix. 6. (k) *Rom.* v. 12. (l) *Rom.* iv. 5. (m) *Rev.* v. 9. (n) *Isa.* i. 15. Chap. lvi. 12, 13. (o) *Exod.* xvi. 20.

Well we know, truly so
Are Men's Works while here below. (p)

14 In this World our Works are wanted, (q)

They can profit Man and Man ; (r)

In this World they're good, (s) is granted,

But they never save us can ; (t)

Nor can they help that Way, (u)

Here they stink the Lord doth say. (w)

15 Christ he is our only Saviour, (x)

He has put away our Sin ; (y)

All our Works can't gain his Favour, (z)

'Tis by Faith we enter in ; (a)

Count them Loss, Dung and Dross, (b)

Glory only in the Cross. (c)

*To those who are setting up their own Frames,
Feelings, Dispositions, Marks, Evidences,
&c. instead of Faith in the Blood of JESUS.*

GENESIS xxvii. Ver. 1 to 33.

1 **W**HEN Father *Isaac's* Eyes were dim,
So that he could not see,
He call'd *Esau* his eldest Son,
Who answer'd, Here I be.

2 Thy Bow and Quiver, saith he, take,
And slay for me some Meat,

And

(p) *Isa.* lxiv. 6. *Phil.* iii. 8. (q) *Psal.* xvi. 2, 3.
(r) *Job* xxxv. 6, 7, 8. (s) *Tit.* iii. 8. (t) *Ephes.*
ii. 5, 8, 9. (u) 1 *Tim.* ii. 5. *Tit.* iii. 5. (w) *Isa.*
lxv. 5. *Mat.* vii. 22, 23. (x) *Acts* iv. 12. (y) *Heb.*
ix. 26. *Psal.* ciii. 12. (z) *Rom.* ix. 31, 32. (a) *Rom.*
v. 2. (b) *Phil.* iii. 8. (c) *Gal.* vi. 14.

And make it savoury and good,
That I may of it eat.

3 But while he's gone to hunt for Meat,
His Brother doth appear;
Isaac is blind, so *Jacob* says,
Thy first-born Son is here.

4 The Father, doubting of his Voice,
Said, Come, and let me *feel*
If thou art not my second Son,
That held my First-born's Heel.*

5 He felt the Goat-skins on his Hands,
And did his Garments smell,
And doubtless felt some Joy, and said,
Thou'rt *Esau* I can tell.

6 Thus are blind Men deceiv'd, we see,
While Feeling is their Guide;
Altho' they smell and feel some Joy,
It won't with them abide.

7 Our Father *Isaac* could not tell
A Goatskin from his Son;
Yet doubtless he could *feel* as well
As those who after *Feelings* run.

8 *Isaac* we see was confident,
And doth his Blessing give;
Because he *felt*, and likewise *smelt*,
He *therefore* did believe.

9 The Smell, saith he, of this my Son
Is like a blessed Field;
Therefore we see his Phantasy
It doth much Pleasure yield.

* *Genesis* xxv. 26.

But when the real First-born came,
He then doth change his Tone;
So those who've learn'd that Tone of him,
Might full as well learn none.

31 Sure like him they will quake for Fear,
When they hear *Jesus's* Voice;
Who says, don't joy in what ye *feel*,
But in the Lord rejoice.

42 Men surely must be blind and mad,
Who look at what they feel,
Instead of what our Saviour doth
Within his Word reveal.

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(so called) and the Perversions, &c. of their several
Adversaries.